

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 26, 2008, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Status of the Claims

Claims 35, 38, 48, 56, 57, 59-62, 64 and 66 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 34, 41, 52, 54, 58, 63 and 67-73 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 74-80 have been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 35-40, 42-48, 51, 53, 55-57, 59-62, 64-66 and 74-80 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 36, 37, 43-47, 51, 53, 55 and 64-66 are allowed. Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for his assistance. Applicant notes that the rejected independent claims have been cancelled and the dependent claims depending therefrom have either been cancelled or amended to depend from allowed claims. Applicant respectfully submits that all of the currently pending claims in the application are allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 34, 35, 38-42, 48, 52, 54, 56-63 and 67-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,285,662).

Claims 34, 41, 52, 54, 58, 63 and 67-73 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from allowed claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot and respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 74-80 have been added. Independent apparatus claims 74-80, which each have their own scope, recite similar features to allowed independent method claims 36, 37, 43-46 and 51, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are allowable for at least the reasons pertaining to the corresponding method claims.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 35, 38-40, 42, 48, 56, 57, 59-62 and 74-80 are also allowable over the cited art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicant's undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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